

**ST. GEORGE CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 30, 2015, 5:00 P.M.
ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT:

**Mayor Pro Tem Gil Almquist
Councilmember Jimmie Hughes
Councilmember Michele Randall
Councilmember Joe Bowcutt
Councilmember Bette Arial
City Manager Gary Esplin
Deputy City Attorney Paula Houston
City Recorder Christina Fernandez**

EXCUSED:

Mayor Jon Pike

OPENING:

Mayor Pro Tem Almquist called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Councilmember Hughes and the invocation was offered by Pastor Jimi Kestin.

PRESENTATION FROM THE WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT REGARDING THE NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA:

Craig Hammer with the Washington County School District stated the proposed elementary school is going to be good for the community. He updated the Council on schools that are currently being remodeled. He explained the timeline for the new elementary school. This will be the first two-story elementary school. He handed out a site plan of the proposed elementary school and explained that parents will enter from 200 South and exit by a right turn only onto 100 South. A block wall will be installed on the west side. The school will have a full-sized gym with wood floors, an outside entrance and restrooms. He explained that this school will be the same size as the other elementary schools and stated that there are over 700 children within walking distance. The Washington County School District Board has not named the school yet, St. George Elementary School was used just in the planning process. He provided a simulated photo of the school and explained that they have spent approximately one year designing it. The play field will be along 200 South.

City Manager Gary Esplin stated that anyone coming off 300 East can access the school. There have been talks about a plan for Worthen Park. Staff is waiting to see what the school District is going to do first. The idea is to leave an access through to the parking lot.

Mr. Hammer stated that it is a safety issue too as the children will go to the park. All schools have space for portables if needed. He commented that you will not find a school district and a city that have a better relationship than the Washington County School District and the City of St. George have.

PRESENTATION FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT REGARDING THE UPGRADE OF A FIRE PUMPER TRUCK:

Councilmember Arial arrived.

Fire Chief Robert Stoker showed photos of the City's ladder trucks. He explained that they have a new aerial truck in their five year plan; however, because of the cost, they keep pushing it back. He explained the issues with the different lengths of the ladders. Just after the budget was completed, Pearce Manufacturing introduced a with a new ladder truck and brought a demo for staff to look at. He showed a photo of the model comparing it to one of the City's trucks. As the truck was impressive, he believes it would be advantageous to go this route. The cost will be \$300,000 more than what was approved. Rather than buying a pumper truck now and spending another \$1 million in a few years, this would be a better way to go. This truck fits the pumper use and gives them the capabilities of a ladder. If this would have been introduced before the budget, he would have requested this truck instead.

City Manager Gary Esplin stated that he watched the demonstration. He asked Chief Stoker if this gets approved, if he will run the truck as a pumper. Since the start of the department, only one rig purchased has been surplusd out; all others are still in use. This is a great opportunity to service a few needs. It is recommended that the truck be purchased out of capital project funds. Funds in the impact funds are being used for a new station in Little Valley. Staff is currently looking for a site. He recommended amending the budget to pay for the truck and explained that staff will design the truck to fit their needs. It will take approximately nine months to build the truck.

The consensus of the Council is to move forward.

PRESENTATION FROM ENERGY SERVICES REGARDING AN UPDATE ON THE NET METERING POLICY:

Laurie Mangum explained staff has spent a lot of time researching this topic.

Water & Energy Conservation Coordinator Rene Fleming presented a PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: Renewable Net Metering; Issues; Options to Address the Issues; Items Included in the kWh Cost; How the Options Compare; Addressing Unrecovered Costs; Solar Reliability Charge; Proposed SRC; Compare Two Cities; Other Considerations; and In Summary.

Councilmember Hughes asked if a customer wants to, can they completely disconnect from the grid.

Ms. Fleming explained that customers can disconnect from the grid; this proposal is strictly for people who want to have solar. Under the proposed change, the customer who chooses not to or cannot afford solar, they are no longer subsidizing their neighbor who has solar on their home.

City Manager Gary Esplin advised that staff will return for formal approval at a later date.

PRESENTATION FROM ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES REGARDING AN UPDATE ON THE CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM:

Administrative Services Director Deanna Brklacich mentioned that staff has been meeting to discuss the curbside recycling program. She and Support Services Manager Marc Mortensen presented a PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: Curbside Recycling Update; Scope; Program & Opt Out Notification; 3 Ways to Opt Out; Logistics and Challenges; and Monthly Charge.

Councilmember Bowcutt commented that he is a bit concerned on the closeness of the opt out date and the effective date.

Administrative Services Director Deanna Brklacich explained that is when the participation rate is determined. The estimated start date is actually January 1st.

Mayor Pro Tem Almquist noted that if customers do not opt out, they are in. Staff is going the extra mile to inform all customers.

Support Services Manager Marc Mortensen commented that there may be some confusion because all municipalities will be different. He explained that HOA's with common dumpsters will not have the ability to have a recycling bin.

Administrative Services Director Deanna Brklacich explained if they have curbside pick up they can participate. The responsible party will be the individual whose name is on the utility account. If a customer opts out, that decision goes with the person. There is a challenge with tracking that.

Councilmember Randall commented that everyone pays for the recycling bins; even if they do not use them.

PRESENTATION FROM ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES REGARDING UTILITY PAYMENT PROCESSING, PRESENTMENT AND NOTIFICATION:

Administrative Services Director Deanna Brklacich explained what the interactive voice recognition (IVR) is. Additionally, she explained that the City only allows those on the shut off to pay their bill over the phone. The City currently uses two companies to process credit card payments. She suggests using a new company called Paymentus to facilitate payments. Approximately \$22 million in utility bills are paid annually by credit cards.

City Treasurer Aaron Olsen presented a PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: Utility Customer Service; What Our Citizens are Saying; Paymentus; What is the Paymentus Platform?; Interactive Voice Response (IVR); Outbound Customer Notifications; Customer Web Portal; Mobile & Pay-by-Text; Benefits; and More Benefits.

Councilmember Bowcutt inquired about the credit card fee.

Administrative Services Director Deanna Brklacich explained the current \$1.25 fee was for to a third party provider to pay utility bills online.

Mr. Olsen continued with his PowerPoint presentation covering the following topics: Challenges; and Future Customer Service Roadmap. The program can be implemented around November 1st.

Administrative Services Director Deanna Brklacich added that this proposal is for utility payments only. Any of the big credit card companies will abide by the utility discount rate. Staff hopes to go out for bid for other payments.

CONSIDER APPROVAL ON AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY PARK ORDINANCE REGARDING FIREARMS:

City Manager Gary Esplin suggested amending City code to conform with state law. He explained that state law dictates what can be carried, used and prohibited in city parks; citizens can go into a park with a weapon.

Deputy City Attorney Paula Houston advised the proposed amendments clean up the definitions so that they are in line with state law. The City has never filed charges against someone for carrying a weapon. The signs will be changed; some of which have already been changed.

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Bowcutt to approve the amendment to the City park ordinance regarding firearms as presented.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hughes.

VOTE: Mayor Pro Tem Almquist called for a roll call vote, as follows:

Councilmember Almquist – did not vote
Councilmember Hughes – aye
Councilmember Randall – aye
Councilmember Bowcutt – aye
Councilmember Arial – aye

The motion carried.

Councilmember Arial inquired if the City is looking at possible change in crime. She asked if this ordinance will make a difference.

City Manager Gary Esplin stated that he does not see this helping that much. He believes there will be more calls about people carrying guns in parks.

ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION:

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Hughes to adjourn to a closed session to discuss a possible property acquisition.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Councilmember Bowcutt.

VOTE: Mayor Pro Tem Almquist called for a roll call vote, as follows:

Councilmember Almquist – did not vote
Councilmember Hughes – aye
Councilmember Randall – aye

Councilmember Bowcutt – aye
Councilmember Arial – aye

The motion carried.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilmember Randall to adjourn.

SECOND: The motion was seconded by Councilmember Arial.

VOTE: Mayor Pro Tem Almquist called for a vote, as follows:

Councilmember Almquist – did not vote
Councilmember Hughes – aye
Councilmember Randall – aye
Councilmember Bowcutt – aye
Councilmember Arial – aye

The motion carried.

Christina Fernandez, City Recorder